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SUBJECT: HAS THE FRG CHANGED ITS VIEW OF THE PKK?

REF: ANKARA 11311

11. WE SUSPECT THAT WHAT THE "TERCUMAN" COLUMNIST IS REFERRING TO IN CLAIMING THAT THE GERMANS VIEW THE PKK AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION (REFTEL) IS THE ASSERTION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S MOST RECENT INTERNAL SECURITY REPORT (VERFASSUNGSSCHUTZBERICHT), COVERING DEVELOPMENTS IN 1987, THAT "IN TURKEY THE PKK OPERATES IN AN OPENLY TERRORISTIC MANNER." THIS ASSERTION DID NOT APPEAR IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S REPORT. OUR CONTACTS IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THEIR MINDS BUT THAT THE PKK USES TERRORIST TACTICS AND HAS PERPETRATED TERRORIST ACTS.

12. WHETHER THE PKK OR PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PKK HAVE ENGAGED IN WHAT MAY BE CONSIDERED AS TERRORIST ACTS ON GERMAN SOIL IS AN ISSUE THAT IS PRESENTLY BEFORE THE COURTS. FOLLOWING A SERIES OF VIOLENT CRIMES (INCLUDING MURDER AND ARSON) APPARENTLY PERPETRATED BY PKK MEMBERS IN GERMANY, AND SEARCHES OF SEVERAL APARTMENTS BELONGING TO PKK MEMBERS, THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN FORMED IN THE FRG ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE PKK, THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OF KURDISTAN (ERNK) AND THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF KURDISTAN (ARGK). (NOTE THAT THIS INVESTIGATION IS NOT DESIGNED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PKK IN GERMANY IS AS SUCH A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.) AT THE SAME TIME, SOME TWENTY PKK MEMBERS ARE DUE TO COME TO TRIAL THIS FALL ON CHARGES OF MURDER, ARSON, OCCUPATION ACTIONS AND THE LIKE. THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THEY HAVE A STRONG CASE AGAINST A NUMBER OF THESE INDIVIDUALS; BUT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO PROVE THAT THE PKK ITSELF (IN THE FRG) IS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.

13. WE ARE FOR THE MOMENT UNABLE TO GET A DEFINITIVE OPINION ON WHETHER THE FACT THAT THE GERMAN INTERNAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THE PKK (IN TURKEY) TO BE A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION RENDERS ITS MEMBERS INELIGIBLE FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE FRG.

BURT